

# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## STAFF NOTE

### Action/Discussion Item:

Certification of Non-Public Preschool

### Applicable Statute(s) or Regulation(s):

KRS 156.160 (3)  
704 KAR 3:410 (4) (7)  
16 KAR 2:040

### Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education accept the recommendation to certify Trent Montessori School?

### History/Background:

**Existing Policy.** KRS 156.160 (3) provides that any “private, parochial or church school may voluntarily comply with curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board of Education and be certified upon application to the Board by such schools.”

At the September 1992 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education approved a process to certify non-public schools. In 1995, the Kentucky Board of Education approved the Voluntary Recognition Process for Non-Public Preschools and Kindergartens. This process is separate from the recognition process for a regular program of a school serving the full grade range (e.g., K-12, K-8, K-6) administered by the Kentucky Non-Public Schools Commission.

The Board certifies preschools by considering the recommendation of the Division of Early Childhood Development. The Division of Early Childhood Development ensures that the school being presented to the Board for certification has successfully completed the accreditation process of one of the national accrediting agencies approved for this purpose by the Board.

The following school is being recommended for the time specified:

**Four years (July 1, 2009 to July 30, 2013) Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children**

Trent Montessori  
Jan Haas, Director  
305 Park Avenue  
Newport, KY 41071

**Staff Recommendation(s) and Rationale(s):**

Staff of the Division of Early Childhood Development recommends the certification of Trent Montessori School.

The Division of Early Childhood Development staff has worked closely with the Kentucky Board of Education to establish the certification process for non-public preschools. The Division has appointed a consultant for the project and monitors the process carefully before making the recommendation presented here.

The Trent Montessori School has successfully completed the accreditation process conducted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and their classroom teachers are certified in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

The certification process for non-public preschools increases the quality of instruction for young children and gets them off to a good start on the road toward proficiency.

**Contact Persons:**

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**Interim Deputy Commissioner**

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**Interim Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

June 2009